CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows wherein changes in a claim are shown by strikethrough or double brackets for deleted matter and underlining for added matter:

1. (Original) Metal screen material having a flat side, comprising a network of dykes which are connected to one another by crossing points, which dykes delimit openings, the thickness of the crossing points not being equal to the thickness of the dykes only on the side of the screen material opposite to the flat side.

2. (Original) Screen material according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the crossing points is greater than the thickness of the dykes.

3. (Original) Screen material according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the thickness of the crossing points and the thickness of the dykes is in the range from 20-250 micrometres.

4. (Original) Screen material according to claim 3, wherein the difference is in the range from 100-200 micrometres.

5. (Original) Screen material according to claim 1, wherein the crossing points have an apex angle of less than 120°.

6. (Original) Screen material according to claim 1, wherein the screen material is in the form of a seamless cylinder.

7. (Original) Screen material according to claim 1, wherein the screen material is electroformed.

8. (Currently amended) Method for manufacturing metal screen material having a flat side, comprising a network of dykes which are connected to one another by crossing points, which dykes delimit openings, [[in particular according to one of the preceding claims,]]comprising at least one or more growth steps for electrolytically thickening a flat screen skeleton in an electroplating bath under controlled conditions, in such a manner that in at least one growth step the growth rate of the crossing points is not equal to the growth rate of the

dykes, so that in the screen material the thickness of the crossing points is not equal to the thickness of the dykes only on the side of the screen material opposite to the flat side.

9. (Original) Method according to claim 8, wherein the controlled conditions comprise a forced flow of the bath liquid through the screen skeleton.

10. (Original) Method according to claim 9, wherein the flow rate of the bath liquid is in the range from 200 l/dm^2 to 600 l/dm^2.

11. (Original) Method according to claim 8, wherein the bath liquid comprises a brightener in a concentration in the range from 200-500 g/l.

12. (Original) Method according to claim 11, wherein the bath liquid comprises a brightener having properties of the first and second classes.

13. (Original) Method according to claim 8, wherein the current density is in the range from 5 to 40 A/dm^2.

14. (Original) Use of the screen material according to claim 1 for the perforation of film material.

15. (Original) Assembly of a support screen and a perforating screen, in which the support screen comprises screen material according to claim 1.

16. (Currently amended) Method for manufacturing an assembly of a tubular support screen and a tubular perforating screen, in particular cylindrical seamless screens, at least comprising a step of shrinking the perforating screen onto the support screen, wherein the support screen comprises screen material having a flat side, comprising a network of dykes which are connected to one another by crossing points, which dykes delimit openings, the thickness of the crossing points not being equal to the thickness of the dykes only on the side of the screen material opposite to the flat side.

17. (Original) Method according to claim 16, wherein a cylindrical support screen is subjected to a heat treatment at elevated temperature, so that a support screen with a defined outer diameter (OD) is obtained, and in that a cylindrical perforating screen with an inner

diameter (ID) which is slightly greater than the outer diameter (OD) of the support screen is fitted over the support screen, and the unit comprising support screen and perforating screen is subjected to a heat treatment at a temperature which is lower than the temperature used for the heat treatment of the support screen, for a sufficient time to shrink the perforating screen onto the support screen.

18. (Currently amended) Method for manufacturing an assembly of a tubular support screen and a tubular perforating screen, in particular cylindrical seamless screens, at least comprising a step of arranging a deformed support screen in the perforating screen and restoring the original shape of the support screen, wherein the support screen comprises screen material having a flat side, comprising a network of dykes which are connected to one another by crossing points, which dykes delimit openings, the thickness of the crossing points not being equal to the thickness of the dykes only on the side of the screen material opposite to the flat side.

19. (Original) Method according to claim 18, wherein to restore the original shape of the support screen, an inflatable container is placed into the support screen and is then pressurized.

20. (Original) Method according to claim 18, wherein the inner diameter of the perforating screen is slightly smaller than the outer diameter of the support screen.

21. (Currently amended) Method for manufacturing an assembly of a tubular support screen and a tubular perforating screen, in particular cylindrical seamless screens, at least comprising a step of pushing the perforating screen over the support screen with the aid of a pressurized fluid, wherein the support screen comprises screen material having a flat side, comprising a network of dykes which are connected to one another by crossing points, which dykes delimit openings, the thickness of the crossing points not being equal to the thickness of the dykes only on the side of the screen material opposite to the flat side.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) ~~Use of the assembly according to claim 15~~Method for perforating film material, wherein the film material is perforated using an assembly of a support screen and a perforating screen, in which the support screen comprises screen material according to claim 1.

24. (Original) Assembly of a support screen and a perforating screen, in which the support screen comprises screen material obtained using the method according to claim 8.

25. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 18, at least comprising a step of arranging a deformed support screen in the perforating screen and restoring the original shape of the support screen, wherein a support screen obtained using the method according to claim 8 is used, which comprises at least one or more growth steps for electrolytically thickening a flat screen skeleton in an electroplating bath under controlled conditions, in such a manner that in at least one growth step the growth rate of the crossing points is not equal to the growth rate of the dykes, so that in the screen material the thickness of the crossing points is not equal to the thickness of the dykes only on the side of the screen material opposite to the flat side.

26. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 21, at least comprising a step of pushing the perforating screen over the support screen with the aid of a pressurized fluid, wherein a support screen obtained using the method according to claim 8 is used, which comprises at least one or more growth steps for electrolytically thickening a flat screen skeleton in an electroplating bath under controlled conditions, in such a manner that in at least one growth step the growth rate of the crossing points is not equal to the growth rate of the dykes, so that in the screen material the thickness of the crossing points is not equal to the thickness of the dykes only on the side of the screen material opposite to the flat side.

27.-29. (Canceled)